

2017 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan, Provider Survey Results

Brent Hedden
Performance and Data Analyst
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Introduction

This survey was conducted as part of the overall effort to draft the 2017 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (also referred to as the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or SCORP). The purpose of this survey was to gather information on the important issues and challenges that outdoor recreation and conservation providers face, and how the State can assist. Additionally, providers were asked questions about the type(s) of funding their organization relies on as well as their organization's use of GIS to inventory their facilities. This report presents summarized responses as well as unedited responses to open-ended questions.

For questions about this report, contact Brent Hedden, Performance and Data Analyst, at (360) 902-2637, brent.hedden@rco.wa.gov, or Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, at (360) 902-3080, leslie.connelly@rco.wa.gov.

Survey Approach

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) worked with a Planning Advisory Committee to develop the survey instrument. RCO thanks the committee for their assistance. The Planning Advisory Committee members were:

Andrew Beagle, Practical Solutions and Multimodal Policy Engineer, Department of Transportation

Leslie Betlach, City of Renton, Parks Planning and Natural Resources Director

Amy Ellings, Healthy Eating Active Living Program Manager, Department of Health

Jessica Emerson, King County, Project Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Jim Eychaner, Citizen, former RCO Staff

Nikki Fields, Parks Planner, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Heather Kapust, Environmental Planner, Department of Ecology

Glenn Glover, Planning and Development Manager for Recreation, Department of Natural Resources

Erik Hanberg, Tacoma Metro Parks, Commission President

James Kisse, Physical Activity Coordinator, Department of Health

Peter Mayer, former Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Member, Assistant Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma

Ike Nwankwo, Western Washington Growth Management Services Manager, Department of Commerce

Melinda Posner, Environmental Planner, Lands Division, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Michael Shiosaki, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Citizen Member, Planning & Development Division Director, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Jon Snyder, Policy Advisory to the Governor, Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development

RCO staff that contributed to the survey were Adam Cole, Leslie Connelly, Kyle Guzlas, Brent Hedden, and Darrell Jennings.

The selected recipients were gathered from RCO staff, the Governor's office, PRISM, web searches, members in professional organizations and recommendations from individuals. Recipients included non-profit organizations, other private entities, tribes, and local, state and federal governments. RCO staff distributed the online survey through SurveyMonkey© to 409 individuals on May 25, 2017. The survey closed June 15, 2017.

The survey questionnaire is included in Appendix A. The survey had built in logic to guide respondents through the survey, and only ask follow-up questions if needed, based on previous responses. Each question that was asked required a response before the respondent could proceed to the next question.

Survey Response

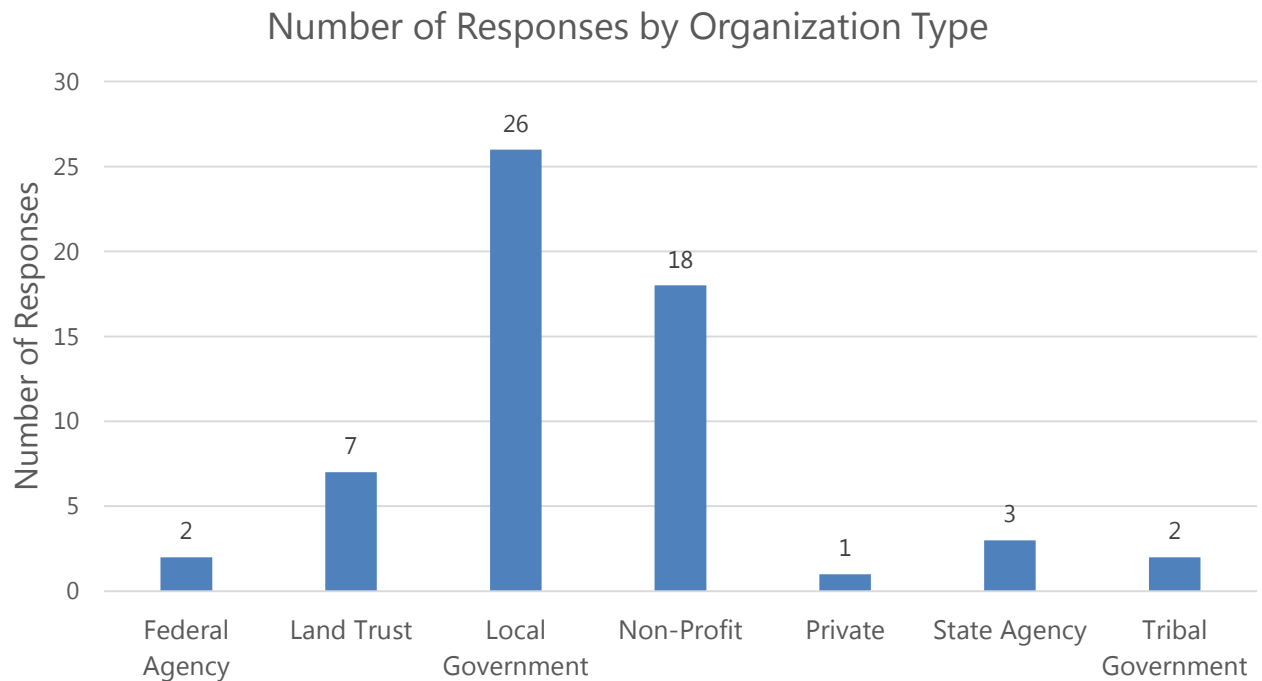
Fifty-nine people responded to the survey, which is a 14 percent response rate based on the people contacted.¹

¹ The number of responses to each question in the survey may vary from this total because some participants did not complete the entire survey.

About the Respondents

Survey respondents represented outdoor recreation providers across Washington State.

Representatives of many organization types responded to the survey. Local Government providers made up the largest group of respondents, with nearly 45 percent of the total.



Survey Results: Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Issues

Respondents were asked several questions about the outdoor recreation and conservation issues they face within their service area. A summary table of those issues, as well as unedited responses to open-ended questions are below.

In general, what are the most important issues for outdoor recreation and conservation within your service area in the near future (3-5 years)? Rank each issue on a scale of 1 (low importance) to 5 (high importance).

Issue	Overall Rank ²
Keeping up with population growth or increased use	4.17
Maintaining existing facilities	4.15
Meeting funding goals	4.10
Increasing costs for buying land or developing facilities	3.85
Lack of or inadequate facilities to meet demand	3.66
Meeting demand for specific types of recreation or providing a diversity of recreation opportunities	3.61
Inadequate planning to meet demand or identified needs	3.27
Problems related to user access (e.g., closed facilities, travel distance to facilities, not enough parking, etc.)	3.17
Poor quality of existing facilities	3.12
Natural resource or cultural resources issues or conflicts with recreation	3.05
Climate change impacts or sustainability issues	3.03
Providing accessible facilities for the elderly and people with disabilities	3.02
User conflicts at existing facilities	2.73
Lack of awareness of available facilities and their location	2.58
Safety concerns from the public	2.46
Lack of awareness of access fees	2.25
Declining population	1.44

Other (open-ended) Responses:

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	Coordinating across multiple agency jurisdictions, transportation planning in terms of alternative transportation to trailheads (can't pave our way out), accurate visitation data and utilization of technology
Land Trust	Lack of funding for recreation and conservation - for acquisition, development, and management.
Local Government	Changing regulations resulting in difficulty in permitting projects that are desired by the public.

² This is an average based on all responses.

Org Type	Response
Other Non-Profit	Staff personal agendas restricting access and maintenance.
Other Non-Profit	Lack of target or public shooting areas.
Other Non-Profit	Road washouts around conservation areas
Other Non-Profit	As more people move to Washington, and there is a rapidly growing population looking to go hiking. It is important to meet this growing demand for trails and provide a variety of quality hiking experiences -- from close in trails to backcountry hikes that help people truly unplug and experience solitude in nature.
Other Non-Profit	Working with a variety of land (federal, state, local, private/non-profit) and asset development (planning and management).
State Agency	Another big need of ours is to develop an inventory of all our facilities, including condition
State Agency	Policy and fee coordination between public agencies, political collaboration to address what is truly important for the system and the state.
Tribal Government	Education about the symbiotic (or not) relationship between conserving places and using for recreation.
Tribal Government	Tribal access to all cultural areas throughout the year

Why? Provide a description of your top ranked issues and why those are the most important.

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	Visitation outpaces our ability to invest in new infrastructure or maintain existing opportunities by ourselves. Institutional barriers make coordination with other agencies challenging at best, ie. uniform fee administration and other high level policy disconnects across agencies
Federal Agency	Budget declines are making it significantly difficult to provide the types of facilities that are expected by visitors. As smaller piles of money are spent trying to maintain facilities, there is less funding that help meet needs to help visitors find meaning and relevance in these facilities.
Land Trust	Increasing conservation and recreation areas with appropriate access for designated uses. Funding is inadequate to take advantage of opportunities to acquire recreation and conservation areas.
Land Trust	Climate change affects winter ski trails. Increased visitor use and demand for trails, but trails are not adequately maintained, due to funding issues.
Land Trust	Skagit County not only has a growing resident population but its open spaces are increasingly attractive to recreational users from Seattle to Vancouver BC. and beyond. For example, Blanchard Mountain, a year-round hiking area near population centers has nearly doubled its use in the past decade. Much of the use is out of area visitors. We need more places like Blanchard close to towns. Although there are good recreation and open space opportunities in the eastern part of the County, the western area is increasingly facing use pressure. There are few marine access areas and public beaches (outside of Anacortes). Historically there has been a resistance by some to developing linked trail networks. Although polling shows that trails are one of the most desired amenities of Skagit County residents, a small

Org Type	Response
	group who does not want linked or cross-county trails has held the planning process hostage for years. That is slowly changing as more residents speak out for trails and open space, but Skagit County is behind its neighbors in planned trail corridors in particular. Climate change impacts are essential to understand and plan for in our diked county that also relies heavily on snow melt and water from rivers year round.
Land Trust	We have a very limited public land base in the San Juan County and users tend to congregate in specific areas, e.g., the Westside of San Juan Island for whale watching. Visitation has steadily increased over time, especially in the past 5 or 6 years. This is creating a situation where there is over use of certain properties without adequate alternatives for users. We believe we could redirect people to other areas, but the high cost of land limits our options in this regard.
Land Trust	There is a tremendous demand for outdoor recreation and land conservation in North Central Washington. The people who live here and those that visit here consider these resources to be a vital component for a high quality of life in this region and community. Our biggest challenge to delivering on these values are the high cost of acquiring the land and developing facilities and keeping up with the accelerating demand as our region's population and number of recreational visitors continues to increase significantly.
Land Trust	Climate change requires a high level of commitment throughout all segments of society, and will have the most profound impacts to the conservation movement if not addressed soon.
Land Trust	State Parks needs more money to maintain parks and have enough rangers to provide interpretive activities and security. People need help connecting with nature and rangers can provide that help. We also need to spend more money on acquiring and managing conservation lands.
Local Government	The Port's two most acute issues are 1) the maintenance, rehabilitation and/or replacement of existing facilities, and 2) meeting funding goals through a realistic plan of finance. Port-wide (including facilities related to outdoor recreation and conservation), existing and projected funding for critically necessary capital repairs and replacement falls far short of identified needs. This is due in large part to underfunded legacy infrastructure (e.g., the Point Hudson Jetty). The Port's available revenues have not kept pace with increasing costs. If the Port was running an infrastructure race, we could accurately say that we are losing ground - running faster and faster simply to remain in the same place.
Local Government	1. Climate change impacts or sustainability issues - for the longevity and sustainability of our natural resources 2. Inadequate planning to meet demand or identified needs - utilizing our resources and funds in the most efficient and appropriate manner 3. Maintaining existing facilities - operation and maintenance of facilities can be more time consuming and expensive than the actual project itself and must be taken into consideration for all projects 4. Safety concerns from the public - this one speaks for itself.
Local Government	Rehabilitating existing facilities is expensive. Dredging is expensive too. Income from existing facilities is not enough to cover the needed work.
Local Government	Funding for maintenance and operations to provide facilities and services outdoor recreational opportunities can be challenging in rural communities. As urban areas

Org Type	Response
	<p>grow in population people have a tendency to recreate in rural areas. In our specific case, we offer marina facilities in Ilwaco and Chinook. Commercial fishing and seafood processing activity provides year round activity where recreational activities primarily occur in the summer months. Our facilities benefit residents of the State however are only partially funded by the respective fees paid by boaters. The combination of local tax revenue, land leases we have, plus revenue from commercial users in our marina provide an opportunity for recreational boating/fishing in our community. I rated "meet funding goals" as the most important issues for us. Grant funding for the construction of facilities is an option to pursue. Facility operations and maintenance costs are increasing and the fee revenue we recognize from recreational users alone is not sufficient to keep up. This present a financial challenge for facilities offering recreational moorage and moorage facilities. It is important to note the interdependence these facilities have within local communities and related businesses. Our rural County, and local governments, are becoming more and more challenged to provide essential services. Recreation is an important part of our community and local economy. Funding to operate and maintain our facilities is our biggest challenge.</p>
Local Government	<p>Climate impacts are high because our parkland forests are changing. Our need for removing fuel as in understory and general fire suppression techniques are now something that we proscribe to in our review of forested lands - something that we rarely worried about previously in our location. Maintaining existing facilities continues to be challenging related to the cost of replacement and maintenance resources. Meeting demands and diverse recreation users is complex. More of our users require facilities attached to shoreline related improvements or facilities - these require long lists of planning permits, increased mitigation and staggeringly long lead times to be granted approvals - particularly on the federal level. I would suggest considering expanding funding for just permitting concerns. Meeting funding goals and user conflicts I think are ongoing problems and not of a greater magnitude than in the past but persistent.</p>
Local Government	<p>The top ranked issue for the Port of Port Angeles is the continued maintenance and improvements required to provide outdoor recreation facilities in the face of high construction costs.</p>
Local Government	<p>1) Funding--The Port is an economic driver and we are judged on our Rate of Return generated by our assets. Parks, even though very important asset for our community are not an income generating asset. 2) Maintenance/Staffing--Having the staff to be able to maintain our trails and parks.</p>
Local Government	<p>The rapid rate of growth in Seattle stretches our ability to keep up with demand. This issue shows itself in the very high cost of new parkland acquisition, the high costs for major maintenance projects (contractors are in demand and bids are coming in significantly higher than estimates), and in competing demands for special uses of park facilities.</p>
Local Government	<p>The population in our county is declining, right now we have a very high percentage of aged people. We have very few family wage jobs in our county, most of people who live here that work, work outside the county. Our school enrollment is declining, because of jobs and lack of housing. The increased cost of buying land and or available land to develop facilities is a problem. The port would continue to</p>

Org Type	Response
	develop, however the land adjacent to the port is in the 100 year flood plain. Other properties are either not available or cost prohibitive.
Local Government	Costs continue to grow while funding shrinks. Added costs due to regulatory requirements exacerbate the problem by draining away funds from actual construction. Because recreation often generates little or no income, funds from other sources must be reallocated to subsidize these facilities. As a result, it is difficult to repair and maintain existing facilities (let alone improving or upgrading them) or to construct (new) facilities.
Local Government	Our population is growing and the growth is coming from the younger generations. They want access and a variety of outdoor recreation.
Local Government	Funding for existing and new facilities related to population growth are top issues.
Local Government	Organizing a regional trails group and connecting the various regional assets into a system and then providing that system with a sustainable funding model.
Local Government	Maintaining our current infrastructure always seems to be a challenge as older facilities decline, new facilities are added and we aren't always able to increase staffing relative to the new facility, and community expectations for maintenance levels are always evolving. There are also concerns that the desire to conserve/preserve conflicts with access. Yet we need people to access to appreciate.
Local Government	Population is expected to continue to grow. High pressure on land for development increases the cost for purchasing property for park development. Aging pool and recreation buildings need upgrade with limited funding options.
Local Government	Currently have inadequate facilities to serve population and meet demand and the population and demand is growing rapidly. High need for trails, athletic fields, indoor recreation facility (renovation/replacement, including aquatics component) and operation/maintenance.
Local Government	Increasing costs for land acquisition/development: we are still competing with law enforcement for general fund dollars. We often lose out. Grants are available but so competitive. Lack of facilities to meet demands: Facilities are expensive....so city councils must prioritize all kinds of projects. Maintaining existing facilities: As buildings age, they require more and more maintenance, We have had the same number of park employees for many, many years, even though assets have increased.
Local Government	Our recreation facilities (pool & community center) are 30+ years old and are inadequate to meet the current and future needs of our community. Our GF operating budget is struggling and major cuts loom for 2018 and the 2019/20 biennium. It is a catch 22 in that the longer we wait to construct new facilities the more expense they will be. However, in the minds of those in decision making positions the city has more important needs that need to be addressed before P & R facilities.
Local Government	Biggest challenge right now is acquiring a large piece of property for a much-needed athletic field complex. Just very few large parcels left and the few that are left are either incredibly expensive or have difficult development challenges.
Local Government	Cost of land and development with limited funding.

Org Type	Response
Local Government	Funding for aging facilities. Resources to take care of deferred maintenance issues. Having enough facilities to meet demand - population is increasing but recreational facilities have not increased in 50 years.
Local Government	The community is growing both in size and density. Existing facilities and maintenance are having a difficult time keeping up with demand and limited budget is proving challenging to purchase land for new parks, renovate outdated facilities and develop new recreational areas.
Local Government	Rapidly growing community with a lack of suitable land to develop parks and trails which compete with housing and other private development. Increased costs due to changes in stormwater regulations will make implementation of projects in a timely manner more difficult. We have a backlog of maintenance, resulting in closed facilities. Focus has been on building new instead of taking care of what we have.
Local Government	Increasing population - important because lack of resources to address individual group/certain population needs, money/funding, staffing... Poorly maintained facilities - if population is increasing and facilities are already in poor shape means its only going to get worse due to lack of resources and competing demands Understanding different population/cultural needs - important because if we're fixing old facilities or building new we need to know what is needed; if we build with "old ways" in mind we're already behind
Local Government	With increased population growth as well as the changing demographics of the City of Auburn and Region our largest need is funding for Capital Projects as well as the local availability of funds of maintain the "to be developed" spaces. We have been quite successful land-banking, but the new residents demand Level of Service that is difficult to maintain.
Local Government	1. Stable funding of development projects that are presented with matching resources in place. 2. YAF support for increased utilization in aging facilities. 3. Development of year round outdoor recreation and athletic facilities. 4. Rising cost of project presentation consultants to fare well at grant presentations.
Other Non-Profit	Motorized off road recreation has more demand for facilities than can be currently met. And ironically even the available facilities (trails, riding areas, tracks, etc) are not easily known to the occasional user or new entrant. The problem of insufficient supply then compounds the quality of existing sites when overuse degrades their quality.
Other Non-Profit	More info needed
Other Non-Profit	Having a citizenry that is first scientifically literate and then has the skills to engage in constructive dialogue about the trade-offs between recreation, conservation, preservation and development on our managed lands is the most important things we can develop to ensure lands have public input on management objectives and the funds to maintain the facilities.
Other Non-Profit	See other above. Agency law enforcement closing areas for personal reasons without input from users. Fisheries biologist trying to close roads and trails to promote personal agenda. Agency engineer doing everything possible to not maintain roads, closing roads, and then taking as long as possible to repair roads.
Other Non-Profit	Keeping public lands open to all user groups would be my most important issue.

Org Type	Response
Other Non-Profit	Wildlife issues concerning seasonal access on wintering ground. Need to be limited more in areas. Continued conflicts arising in shooting areas due to public access or being developed. The need for public shooting areas to make things safer and to help prevent some fire issues that seem to be developing. Safety issues that concern introduction of grizzly bears and wolves in this state. Large predators may or will become an issue.
Other Non-Profit	Keeping trails open and maintained, free of downed timber and obstacles and with appropriate water crossings that support pack and saddle stock use has become increasingly backlogged. Inadequate funding to the agencies that are tasked with maintaining our states trail systems, and the trailhead facilities and parking means that the recreational equine user cannot gain access to riding areas.
Other Non-Profit	Good walking trails and start points to use the facilities.
Other Non-Profit	We walk on all surfaces and there are plenty of them. The more we walk, the more walks we find.
Other Non-Profit	After 36 years not having completed the John Wayne Pioneer Trail
Other Non-Profit	Have survey showing major issue is lack of knowledge. Signage not allowed for some resort areas due to seasonal opening.
Other Non-Profit	In Wenatchee, we have amazing recreation assets, however, we currently don't have enough (mostly trail) and have issues with access (roads) and trailheads, and signage. We are not prepared for additional growth in the region as this will add pressure to our existing recreational assets.
Other Non-Profit	Washington is projected to grow by 1.8 million people over the next 25 years. This population increase has already started putting tremendous pressures on our trails and natural areas. Exploring a natural place can have a powerful impact on a person's life. WTA wants to ensure that these experiences are available to everyone. Washington's expansive trail network offers an extraordinary array of hiking opportunities and deserves stewardship to match. Yet Washington falls short of meeting the growing demand for outdoor recreation across the state. We face a backlog of trails and roads requiring maintenance and repair and declining public funding for recreation on public lands. Only with a significant increase in public investment can we ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access the outdoors in the manner they chose from close-in transit accessible trails to backcountry hikes that help people truly unplug and experience solitude in nature.
Other Non-Profit	There is an increase desire to utilize outdoor recreation assets in our region. We need a comprehensive management and development plan that involves all land owners and user groups. We also need to develop a funding sustainability and growth strategy to maintain and develop facilities and preserve land. There are a lot of people in our community working with that goal in mind, but little resources available to recreational planning opportunities.
Other Non-Profit	User negligence at existing facilities. Youth sports have priority use of outdoor facilities/fields and the fields are being used for more than one Youth sport. Youth leagues pay less than Adults. Youth often cancel or don't use the facility/field (for whatever reason) and don't notify anyone in advance, so the field goes unused. This is particularly frustrating when supply is not meeting demand now for soccer fields and Adult leagues are suffering.

Org Type	Response
Other Non-Profit	With the ever increasing population, increasing popularity of recreational off road vehicles and the lack of knowledge or understanding of access rules by users is the greatest concern. Our public lands are being loved to death. All types of recreation are occurring at higher rates. Yet, enforcement officers are declining in numbers. Recreational users don't fully understand public conduct rules or they are simply ignorant of basic trail and camp site courtesy. More and more target shooting is occurring on public land. This increases money into conservation as it is more money that goes to the Pitman Robertson Fund and distributed to states yet Washington has not spent hardly any money to build suitable public ranges. They do however, provide funding to ranges through RCO grants that allow some public access but the state needs to fund and manage public ranges.
Other Non-Profit	Our region is growing at a rapid pace and we have not planned for/budgeted for the expense of managing the increase in use. At the same time there are many groups or populations who do not have easy access or information about outdoor opportunities or the existing facilities do not meet their cultural needs.
Other Non-Profit	With increased population we are seeing more pressure on undeveloped sites (informal social trails, undeveloped neighborhood green spaces, and historic access on private timber lands for example). This increasing use is creating more demand for facilities properly designed and managed to handle increased use in a sustainable manner.
Private	As the popularity of different forms of outdoor recreation continues to increase, anticipating and being prepared for this increased demand is essential. The potential for outdoor recreation infrastructure is plentiful across the State, especially in Central Washington, but proper foresight, planning, and development need to take place at a higher rate and level of importance.
State Agency	We are experiencing increased visitor use and increases in the types and diversity of recreation activities on our wildlife areas and water access sites. This includes the primary uses such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-related, as well as other types of recreation - mtn bike riding, hiking, geocaching, etc. We continue to be most challenged in maintaining our lands to keep up with demand and meet our mission, which includes conservation and recreation. Another big issue is data collection and maintenance, and being able to communicate consistently about recreation to the public. This includes collecting and standardizing data and "serving" it up in a manner and format that will be most accessible to the diverse public.
State Agency	Growing demand from both population growth and popularity of trail based recreation is pushing the limits of our resources. Inability to meet the demand leads to illegal trail building or use as well as reduced satisfaction because of overcrowding.
State Agency	<p>Deferred maintenance remains a serious challenge for State Parks with an estimated facility deficiency backlog of around \$500 million. Decades of inadequate maintenance funding have left us with a great system of natural and cultural resources that have huge recreational facility needs.</p> <p>Climate change will have impacts across the board for state parks, from ocean beaches to mountaintops. It will impact facilities, operations, and recreation options. State Parks will need to invest more in planning and facility design to cope with</p>

Org Type	Response
	<p>these impacts effectively, and will need funding to do so.</p> <p>In addition to maintaining what we have, State Parks needs to add to its landholdings, strategically and opportunistically, to keep pace with demand and population growth, to provide access to a diversity of landscapes, and to keep up with changing recreational trends. The State Parks mission of connecting all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage while providing them with memorable recreational and education experiences requires a dynamic approach to planning and funding for stewardship and for recreation, both active and passive.</p>
Tribal Government	Cost of acquiring, developing and maintaining lands, trails, facilities are the most important issues in our service area.
Tribal Government	This is important to sustain our culture and traditions

Survey Results: Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Challenges

Respondents were asked several questions about the challenges they face when attempting to address the outdoor recreation and conservation issues they face within their service area. A summary table of those issues, as well as unedited responses to open-ended questions are below.

What are the biggest challenges for your organization to addressing the issues you identified? Rank each issue on a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority).

Issue	Overall Rank ³
Competing demands for limited funds	4.30
Ability to raise local funds for facilities or land acquisition	3.48
Inadequate staff capacity	3.31
Compliance with regulations and permitting	3.06
Ability to create and coordinate partnerships	2.94
Lack of space or property within jurisdiction to expand or create new facilities	2.89
Lack of political support	2.87
Lack of user education and awareness	2.83
Not in my backyard or neighborhood conflicts	2.65
Lack of a common goal or vision	2.31
Lack of technology or data	2.22
Lack of community support	2.13
Lack of support of user groups	2.07

Other (please specify):

Org Type	Response
Local Government	We are very fortunate. The Port has great support from our community as well as our City partners from Camas and Washougal.
Local Government	Seattle is very fortunate to have Seattle Park District funding; however, our needs and neighborhoods competing priorities go beyond what the department's regular budget and Park District funds can pay for. We also face opposition from the community when looking at partnerships for co-management of facilities. In some neighborhoods, partnership translates to privatization and is strongly opposed.
Local Government	Impacts of minimum wage and union issues on ability to adequately staff.
Other Non-Profit	Political support specifically for the funding of the K-12 education to build equity and knowledge for all constituents not just the ones motivated by their particular interest.
Other Non-Profit	See other on question #2.
Other Non-Profit	Unintended consequences of ordinances that address adult clubs/bars that impact family nudist resorts.

³ This is an average based on all responses.

Org Type	Response
State Agency	Lack of dependable tax support

How can the state help overcome these challenges?

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	State could take active role in reducing institutional barriers between agencies mentioned above. State could become a data hub for recreational assets and information on resources. Providing "seed" funding for alternative transportation solutions.
Land Trust	Capacity building grants for local recreation and conservation organizations to increase local capacity for supporting recreation and conservation activities.
Land Trust	Provide more funding.
Land Trust	Data and readable reports that have come out, such as the economic benefits of recreation and wildlife, are important to help educate politicians. Those citizens who wish that the population would shrink, not grow, may not shift their views by data and polling- but the decision makers and leaders should be influenced by these things. They should be planning and making decisions based on data and best available science. Population growth is inevitable. It sure appears that sea level rise and climate change is inevitable. Planning together for wildlife corridors, open space, sustainable environments, trails and marine access is essential to this area's quality of life and what we leave future generations. The state could help with partnering in local polling. Local polls on desired land use are better accepted than state-wide polls. However not every place has the expertise or funds to do the polling and planning needed. Publicizing areas as "stories" that have embraced planning and received economic benefit would be good. Requiring counties to have a climate action plan that address forecasting and changing water and land uses in the face of climate change would be great
Land Trust	Maintaining funding opportunities for acquisition and development of new conservation and recreation areas.
Land Trust	It is critical for the State to continue to realize the value of and invest in creating new recreational and conservation sites and maintaining the ones we have. There is strong local support among the community and strong local partnerships in place to deliver on the ground, but we need the State to be one of the funding and project implementation partners as well.
Land Trust	Promote the economic benefits of conservation and outdoor recreation.
Land Trust	Budget sufficient funds for conservation and recreation. Acknowledge and accept that our community values conservation and recreation - perhaps poll the community?
Local Government	It is not clear that the state can help to overcome these challenges. RCO already plays a vital role in supporting many important Port projects through the BIG and BFP programs. However, the central issues facing the Port are driven by macro energy and economic forces, as it becomes ever more difficult to afford the lifestyle(s) we have promised ourselves. It would, however, be helpful to have the state direct more resources to grant programs that explicitly seek to assist in

Org Type	Response
	maintaining/rehabilitating existing recreation/conservation infrastructure, rather than placing an emphasis on "new" and meeting the demands of "growth."
Local Government	Increase education and awareness of the challenges and allocate funds as effectively and efficiently as possible
Local Government	Increase funding opportunities for dock/facility refurbishment and dredging.
Local Government	I previously mentioned in item #3
Local Government	Provide a small but committed amount of funding to apply to future capital projects through upfront permitting assistance. Or, create an advocate's office to facilitate federal permitting among jurisdictions.
Local Government	To continue to provide grant funding for in water infrastructure such as docks and floats that support recreation.
Local Government	Continuing to fund RCO and support what their partners are trying to accomplish.
Local Government	The State's RCO grant funding is essential for our capital improvement budget; continued State support for this program helps.
Local Government	I would be helpful if the funds could be distributed on a more even basis. Public awareness of how important it is to develop facilities for future growth of the community. It continues to be a permitting nightmare, it seems that if you are performing a common project, that the permitting should not take so long and or be so restrictive. I'm not sure how to make more land available.
Local Government	Maintain existing program funding levels and work to reduce regulatory burdens that cause delays and substantially increase costs while delivering modest or no direct benefits.
Local Government	Try to allocate funding while allowing forward-thinking partnerships to develop when funding is not available.
Local Government	Local funding challenges can be alleviated with more funding and select funding for smaller agencies that struggle for matches, or struggle to compete with large cities. In addition, cities like ours are built out have very little need for acquisition projects, but really need development.
Local Government	Funding, funding, funding and permitting assistance. Notwithstanding fantastic job by state in acquiring/conserving property over past few decades, creating and sustaining access by developing facilities is ongoing challenge locally. Supporting creation of regional groups that organize and lead on this mission, including local political support, is needed.
Local Government	Balancing regulations to support public and private decision making; relinquishing those choices to the property owners and local community.
Local Government	Funding for parks and open space in areas determined for growth, especially around areas prioritized for high capacity transit improvements.
Local Government	Funding for development and O/M of facilities that serve a regional purpose (trails, indoor recreation facilities, including aquatics components) would be helpful. Remove or scale the 50% match requirement for qualifying projects.
Local Government	Additional grant resources for parks AND for recreation.










Org Type	Response
Local Government	Provide education and outreach for communities that struggle with building local partnerships and support for projects that will be very beneficial to the community. Provide educational opportunities for politicians to increase their awareness and importance of public recreation and park facilities.
Local Government	Continue to support RCO, particularly the WWRP program. Our jurisdiction has benefited greatly from this program and we've been able to acquire and develop quite a few much-needed parks and open spaces with this support.
Local Government	Easier access to funding.
Local Government	RCO grants are very intimidating - without the help of an experienced grant writer small park districts have no chance to compete with the bigger entities. Hiring a grant writer can be cost prohibitive. It seems that the process is stacked against the little guys. Smaller park districts have fewer resources to meet the need of their communities. Funding much needed updates for aging heavily used facilities remains a top priority, we have to find ways to take care of what we have before we can think of adding new parks or amenities.
Local Government	Continue the WWRP, YAF and other grant programs. Provide programs that assist with sustainability such as renovation grants for previously funded projects. Staffing support would be appreciated for underserved communities which may not have the resources or capacity to plan, administer grant programs, develop or maintain parks.
Local Government	Work with State and local agencies to show value of protecting open space lands and constructing trails is a lesser impact on the environment and loosen up some of the regulations we encounter. Support grant funding for operations, maintenance and staff
Local Government	Better state and region coordination, desire to work together to benefit the state is needed
Local Government	Political partisanship for RCO. Support the constituents that have worked in developing project request, establish and meet funding requirements and seek to support and fund good grass roots projects. A troubling trend of legislative reassignment of funds is also a concern.
Other Non-Profit	The efficiency of the state structure to provide and maintain trail mileage, riding areas and tracks can be improved. Also, the state has not used or at least made visible annual goals such as the increase in the number of trail miles, riding areas or tracks so that accountabilities and progress towards goals can be measured, let alone agreed upon.
Other Non-Profit	More info to come
Other Non-Profit	Reinstate Education goals to include K-12 education in outreach efforts and put the financial support in place to effectively meet those goals. Informal educators with no education experience are important partners but the agencies need to provide training for informal educators to understand the needs of K-12 system to effectively meet education goals that are embedded systematically in the public school system, not one time "field trips" or one time "classroom speakers" or even one time "projects" disconnected otherwise from their learning.
Other Non-Profit	Listen to users on a state level. With federal agencies "Forest Service" area congressmen will need to be involved. Probably a low priority.

Org Type	Response
Other Non-Profit	Limit development in forested and wildlife wintering areas.
Other Non-Profit	?
Other Non-Profit	Provide more facilities and fund them
Other Non-Profit	NIMBY is not good for the general public. We need to find ways to overcome this narrowness.
Other Non-Profit	Problems have occurred with gun ranges or hunting around resort areas. While we support legal hunting, we have been aware of poaching of animals such as moose in our areas.
Other Non-Profit	Provide more localized funding for infrastructure development and operational costs. The local organizations have a better understanding of the needs of specific areas than the State Government.
Other Non-Profit	Each year, millions of outdoor enthusiasts spend \$21.6 billion on outdoor recreation in Washington. Statewide, outdoor recreation supports 200,000 jobs. In addition, \$2 billion in local and state taxes are collected annually as a result of outdoor recreation. It is important that the state recognize the recreation as an economic driver and invest in a trails system that can meet the growing demand of outdoor enthusiasts and grow this vital economy. Washington Trails Association believes public-nonprofit partnerships, like our volunteer trail maintenance program, are key to reducing the infrastructure backlog on public lands, but volunteers cannot do it alone. In order to increase our volunteer trail work, there must be additional investment in land management agencies to address the maintenance backlog for trails, campgrounds and access roads on federal lands. Washington Trails Association stands ready to leverage increased investment in recreation infrastructure on public lands with the sweat equity of our thousands of volunteers who are eager to help steward the places they love.
Other Non-Profit	Not sure
Other Non-Profit	Develop more educational materials, increase enforcement officer positions, create PSA's on basic public land conduct rules. The state needs to take the lead on issues and quit being polite to anti recreation, anti-hunting organizations.
Other Non-Profit	Taking a leadership position on coordinating partnerships.
Other Non-Profit	We need greater investment in parks and open space commensurate with the increases we are seeing in population and demand for outdoor recreation opportunities.
Private	Providing resources and, both through funding mechanisms and through facilitation of communications, will be essential.
State Agency	Funding is one of the biggest issues. Increasing demand, outdated facilities, serving more and different users Funding supports efforts to increase awareness about where and how to use lands, as well as developing mapping tools and data collection to provide users info they need to use our lands. We are a state agency so we will assume you are asking how RCO can help: - provide more funding for recreation/conservation and multiple benefit projects - help build awareness of the public around balancing recreation and conservation to meet needs of fish, wildlife and people of the state - help with collecting of data about recreation users, interests and needs (SCORP survey is good) - provide funds to support planning, data collection, data management - if you're going to collect and compile data from multiple state agencies, develop standards and criteria for consistent and

Org Type	Response
	complete info across agencies (e.g. state trails map, state rec facilities map). Another way for RCO to help is to support the ability for projects to span multiple years; often unanticipated issues preclude us from completing in 2 years.
State Agency	Funding recreation at a level commensurate with its importance in WA State
State Agency	<p>An effort by the legislature to provide greater flexibility for the agencies to coordinate both programs and fees would be helpful. With State Parks operating more and more on earned revenue, it should be given more spending discretion and exemption from across-the-board budget cuts.</p> <p>The state can also better recognize the importance of outdoor recreation and its impact on Washington's citizens, hopefully leading to a more dependable funding mechanism.</p>
Tribal Government	Protect and expand funding sources for conservation and recreation. support education of users and raise awareness for connecting conservation and recreation
Tribal Government	Continue to work with tribal leaders

Survey Results: Participation Rates

The following table is a summary of the top ten recreation activities that was gathered from the Washington State 2017 Assessment of Demand.⁴ Respondents were asked a series of questions about whether or not this aligned with what they are experiencing within their service area. Those questions, and unedited responses are below.

Rank	Adults without Children			Adults with Children		
	Activity	Participation Rate	Change from 2012	Activity	Participation Rate	Change from 2012
1	Walking	82%		Walking	88%	
2	Sightseeing	54%	No change	Leisure in parks	73%	Not asked in 2012
3	Nature activities	53%		Swimming	62%	
4	Day hiking	51%	No change	Nature activities	57%	No change
5	Boating or paddling in freshwater	45%		Boating or paddling in freshwater	56%	
6	Swimming	45%		Day hiking	56%	No change
7	Leisure in parks	32%	Not asked in 2012	Bicycling	34%	No change
8	Bicycling	27%		Running	34%	No change
9	Fishing in freshwater	24%	No change	Camping	29%	
10	Target shooting	19%	No change	Fishing in freshwater	28%	No change

In general, do the participation rates in the top outdoor recreation activities reflect what you experience as a service provider of outdoor recreation? For example, walking is the activity that most adults do or swimming is more important for adults with children.

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Percent No	Percent I don't know	Percent Yes
Federal Agency	1	100%	0%	0%
Land Trust	7	0%	29%	71%
Local Government	25	12%	12%	76%
Other Non-Profit	15	20%	20%	60%

⁴ The participation rates presented in the survey was preliminary data. The final data is available in the Washington State 2018 Assessment of Demand.

Private	1	100%	0%	0%
State Agency	3	0%	33%	67%
Tribal Government	2	0%	0%	100%

If no, how are the participation rates different than what you experience?

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	Participation rates reflect a state wide trend regardless of land base or Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. These rates do not reflect the trends of use on the National Forests (we don't have 45% of visitors swimming on the Forest).
Local Government	Bicycling has a much higher participation rate in our community.
Local Government	Over the last several years our occupancy rates have hit 100% earlier each year. For example, in 2014 it may have been May or June when we reached capacity. This year it was March.
Local Government	Don't know.
Non-Profit	User information for the WTA website, trip reports and on trail observations indicate that in fact the number of people hiking has increased since 2012. With the increase here only in the walking category, I believe that people may be considering walks in nature on trails as walks instead of hikes. It is important to recognize that there may be significant overlap among walkers and hikers and that increase in walking should be consider as an increase in trail users / hikers more broadly.
Non-Profit	Adult sport leagues, particularly soccer, are on the decline due to cost and availability.
Non-Profit	Target shooting and camping has significantly increased.
Private	Bicycling among both groups appears to be on the rise in Central Washington.

If your experience is different, what are the recreation activities that receive the most participation? Please provide a source for your information (e.g., registration data, resident survey, plan, etc.)

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	See MBS National Visitor Monitoring reports.
Local Government	Boating
Local Government	Hiking, skiing, boating.
Local Government	Random sample household and on-line survey results from our last plan update: Walking Bicycling Playgrounds Swimming Athletics Boating
Non-Profit	We have continued to see hiking increase in popularity. We have seen a 14% increase in users visiting our website, wta.org, from 2015 to 2016 -- with more than 4.8 million people looking for hike suggestions and up-to-date trail information in 2016. Similarly, there has been significant increase people filing trip reports more than more than twice as many people writing trip reports in 2016. Conversations

Org Type	Response
	with local federal rangers also confirm that visitorship to trailheads across the state has also increased. This appears to be a national trend as well according to the USDA Forest Service report, A Sustainable Recreation Future. Draft 12/16/2015.
Non-Profit	We are a soccer league so we only have one activity.
Non-Profit	Camping, ATV use, target shooting, hiking. Surveys and daily logs kept by our volunteers.
Private	na

Does the information on the change in participation rates reflect what you have experienced in the last 5 years as a service provider of outdoor recreation? For example, more adults are walking or there are less adults interested in bicycling and camping.

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Percent No	Percent I don't know	Percent Yes
Federal Agency	1	100%	0%	0%
Land Trust	7	42%	29%	29%
Local Government	25	24%	16%	60%
Other Non-Profit	15	53%	27%	20%
Private	1	100%	0%	0%
State Agency	3	33%	67%	0%
Tribal Government	2	0%	0%	100%

If your experience is different, how has participation in outdoor recreation activities changed in the past 5 years?

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	See previous answer regarding the relevance of these trend to our land and user base.
Land Trust	More people are involved in nature activities (with or without children) that are close by urban areas (within a half hrs drive). This Local nature use is increasing rapidly. Use in national parks (1.5 hrs away) seems static however. We don't really have much in the way of swimming here so I don't see that as going up or anywhere near 62% of families doing it. The one public pool we have (YMCA) is practically empty even in the winter. It's the only pool I know where you can plan on having your own lane for lap swim. We are often one of 3-4 families in the pool on a Sunday mid-day. Swimming seems to be going down in use if anything - may be that the facility is rather worn. When I go to the next county up (Whatcom) their pool is jam packed Camping locally is not going down- it has increased a lot. You cannot get a campsite on summer weekend any more. You used to be able to. Many people don't even bother trying
Land Trust	Walking, sightseeing, nature activities, day hiking, leisure in parks, and bicycling have all increased as has boating/paddling in salt water. Boating/paddling in fresh water, swimming, fishing in fresh water and target shooting have all decreased due

Org Type	Response
	to a lack of opportunity, i.e., there aren't many freshwater recreation opportunities in the islands.
Land Trust	Increased demand for day hiking and nature activities.
Local Government	More event and camp focused. Our programs are detaching somewhat from facilities. Instead of focusing around a building for some activities, for instance, the teen center or the senior center, we are using more of our catalogue and some increase in social media -- this seems to translate into more programming but less of it focused around a specific building. We would disagree regarding a reference to lower interest in activities relative to nature. For instance our walks are organized around our nature parks for the most part and these programs are growing. Also, we would disagree and the reported statewide trend on bicycling. We are expanding the Sound to Olympics trail partly as it reflects the demands from advocacy / user groups. Also, we are located immediately across from downtown Seattle, so in some instances I think our local bicycling trends reflect a neighborhood adoption of that use in our community by downtown Seattle residents.
Local Government	As explained on answer #9
Local Government	Bicycling very very big in north central WA so that doesn't look right.
Local Government	Bicycling has increased or stayed the same and would be higher on our community's list. Walking matches our community's values.
Local Government	Less time for recreation.
Local Government	Increase in nature activities
Non-Profit	I see more adults moving to mountain biking and am surprised that number is reported as a down trend.
Non-Profit	Definitely appears to be more individuals using the resources. Depending on location the activities seem to change or the type of use varies more. There should not be parking areas adjacent to public state areas that people use to avoid discovery pass requirements.
Non-Profit	I notice more bicycles on forest trails and more camping in or near established campgrounds. I notice more walkers in state, county and local parks. Parking fills and overfills on weekend days at parks and trail heads within 40 miles of downtown Seattle.
Non-Profit	Nature activities such as nature hikes and viewing of wildlife has increased for both adults and families.
Non-Profit	We have continued to see hiking increase in popularity. We have seen a 14% increase in users visiting our website, wta.org, from 2015 to 2016 -- with more than 4.8 million people looking for hike suggestions and up-to-date trail information in 2016. Similarly, there has been significant increase people filing trip reports more than more than twice as many people writing trip reports in 2016. Conversations with local federal rangers also confirm that visitorship to trailheads across the state has also increased. This appears to be a national trend as well according to the USDA Forest Service report, A Sustainable Recreation Future. Draft 12/16/2015.

Org Type	Response
Non-Profit	Again, cost and availability are the biggest factors in the decline.
Non-Profit	All outdoor recreation, especially, ATV use, target shooting and camping has significantly increased.
Non-Profit	There is greater interest in outdoor recreation activities in terms of desire to try for the first time, more interest from different groups, more interest in providing outdoor opportunities for children, and more people camping, hiking, and boating.
Private	Bicycling among both groups seem to be on the rise.
State Agency	DNR sees primarily trail based recreation plus camping at locations attached to trails. These are generally: hike, bike, equestrian, dirt bike, quad, 4x4, trail run. From our experience, both measured and anecdotal, all of these are continuing increase on our lands.
State Agency	We have seen modest increases in both camping and day use visitation over the past 5 years. Our system for measuring day use attendance has evolved recently, and it is difficult to put a number to the increase with 100% certainty. Our overnight visits (camping, yurts, cabins) have increased steadily in the single digits. We have not seen a dramatic shift in use types over the past 5 years. We have seen an increase in recreational non-motorized boating, particularly kayaking.

What are the outdoor recreation activities that you expect to increase in demand in the near future (3-5 years)? Please provide a source for your information (e.g., registration data, resident survey, plan, general observation, etc.)

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	Day hiking, trail running, mountain biking, the use outfitters or guides. Based on observations of demands from users groups and somewhat from NVUM.
Land Trust	Walking, hiking, nature walks based on a large increase in registration for Dishman Hills events along with trailhead counts. Mountain biking is increasing in the area but not at Dishman Hills properties.
Land Trust	Through conversations with locals, visitors, and other local organizations, expect increase in demand for hiking, mountain biking, and Nordic skiing trails.
Land Trust	Nature nearby. A larger system of parks, natural areas, that are within a half hours drive of a town or city and that are "wilder" and have a variety of trails or beaches on them. (Observation- i.e. the Blanchard example whose annual use was 65,000 ten years ago and is now well over 110,000 annual visitors.) Inter-linked multi-use trails - local polling. Wildlife Viewing Areas- local observations. The Skagit-Samish Delta areas see many more visitors in the winter for birding than they used to. Expect this to continue. Any time we put in a wildlife viewing area along highway 20 and along Skagit River, it is heavily used and appreciated.
Land Trust	Walking, sightseeing, paddling in salt water, nature activities, road and mountain biking, trail running, and day hiking. We are definitely observing more people doing these activities, and, the survey we did in conjunction with our latest Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Plan indicated strong interest in these areas.
Land Trust	Day hiking, walking, biking. This is based on recent surveys we have conducted of our members and the general public.

Org Type	Response
Land Trust	We anticipate a higher level of trail-related activities in our area in the future, which is based on a recent outdoor recreation analysis by the Greater Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce.
Land Trust	General observation - guided walks, hands-on learning opportunities. I see a greater need for a "docent" to introduce people to nature.
Local Government	As a special purpose government that primarily provides marine-related infrastructure, we would anticipate seeing a continuation of the trend towards more people with trailer-able boats (e.g., small craft, kayaks, etc.), rather than permanently moored vessels - due primarily to the high cost of ownership. This is based upon observed trends in the sale of launch ramp passes and vessel registration data. Anecdotally, walking/hiking and cycling seem to continue to enjoy an increasing number of adherents in northeast Jefferson County. Whether or not these observed (i.e., anecdotal) trends are in proportion to, or in excess of, population growth, is unclear.
Local Government	Unknown
Local Government	Boat B&B's and flexible/shared boat rentals - recent requests and general observation.
Local Government	Wildlife viewing, walking, running, biking, hiking, paddle boats, fishing and crabbing. From my general observations and experience in reading various local planning documents.
Local Government	We are seeing increases in camps, alternative sports recreation and organized events. This is based on registration data and attendance. We are seeing increased use of trails and biking and mountain biking - particularly among the pre-teen category. This is evidenced by increases in attendance and park users. Likewise road shoulder and bike lane improvements are increasing bicycling. Pleasantly, programmers are seeing less user conflicts among these increased use patterns. This is based on increased registration levels, users out on trails; and discussion with local vendors. Increased use of water and related paddle and sailing. This is evidenced in registration levels. Survey trends are consistent regarding relatively high preference use of trails and shoreline related park facilities.
Local Government	Not qualified to provide feedback
Local Government	Hiking, boating activities and mountain biking
Local Government	Seattle Parks and Recreation conducted a statistically valid survey at the end of 2016. Walking in parks had by far the highest participation rates, consistent with surveying we did in 2013. Here is a link to the complete 2016 survey information: http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/planning-and-policy-document-library
Local Government	Paddle boarding, kayak and canoe use, rowing groups. This is based on general observation.
Local Government	Walking - General observation
Local Government	General observation--walking and hiking trails with easy access day use.

Org Type	Response
Local Government	Walking, passive park utilization, water activities. All related to our Ballinger Park Master Plan public process. Interest was very high in a regional park that offered all of these pieces.
Local Government	Mountain biking, day hiking, boating. Source: Seat of My Pants
Local Government	We continue to see higher than average (for state peers) participation in sailing and kayaking programs, primarily youth. This is based on our registration data. We have increased requests and have dedicated more resources recently to exploring mountain biking/bmx biking opportunities. This is based on community engagement. Open space for passive recreation (walking, yoga, tai chi, mindfulness exercises) continues to be a priority for our community. This is based on our parks plan.
Local Government	Outdoor adventure play for children - observations and community meetings. Activities and programs for active seniors - recent community survey.
Local Government	Swimming and athletic programs (registration data)
Local Government	Trails: Walking, hiking (Patron requests, general observation, Facebook comments, past department survey) Nature Activities (Registrations, general observation) Leisure in Parks (General conversations, past department survey)
Local Government	Wilderness experience activities such as hiking, backpacking, etc. With the cost of many activities going up I think that low cost/no cost activities such as walking, bicycling, and family activities in parks in general will increase. I base this on articles in professional publications and my observations in our area and talking to patrons of our facilities.
Local Government	Lacrosse. There is a newly-formed league in Olympia and I've heard anecdotally that it's exploded in popularity on the East Coast and is "moving west."
Local Government	Dog friendly parks and trails. Citizen driven.
Local Government	Soccer - registration data walking dogs - general observation pickleball - registration and general observation
Local Government	From numbers of requests and reservations, picnicking and parks as social gathering places is increasing. Wading pool and spray park use is also increasing and in our community can't keep up with demand.
Local Government	Walking, biking on trails Mountain biking Disc golf
Local Government	Outdoor exercise equipment at all parks, more opportunities for camping (changing demographics)
Local Government	Trail use- walking- shoreline access for fishing and leisure. Car top boating access. Public Restrooms. Increase number of all-weather athletic fields. These are top five results in our recent comp plan survey
Non-Profit	We've had continued growth thru dealer sales and membership in motorized off road recreation since the recession of 2008. The demands presented by this growth overtax existing trails, riding areas and tracks and then present concerns about maintaining these existing resources, let alone providing more. Also new vehicles such as SxS/UTV's have created a demand for resources that previously didn't exist.

Org Type	Response
	They're also looking for street legality and the legislation has been slow to keep up with this demand.
Non-Profit	More info Climbing Mountaineering boating (flat and whitewater) Biking Certifications? Lots of marketing is equating to more seeking Based on rentals
Non-Profit	N/A
Non-Profit	All that involve access to public lands. General observation.
Non-Profit	I am also the owner of a reforestation company and work all parts of the state. I see larger turn out to harvest natural resources like huckleberries, mushrooms, etc. There simply are more people out there, if for no reason than to be outdoors driving through the mountains, beaches, and rivers. Road conditions could be improved in areas to accommodate better access. Some forested areas seem to have individuals target practicing at ever pull out. Seems to be an increase in quads and motor cycles in some areas. Boating will continue to increase.
Non-Profit	I have observed the increase in Mountain biking and in creating dedicated mountain biking facilities where the area was once multiuse. Team sports for children seem to be increasingly popular, requiring fields and lighting. Recreational shooting seems to be on the rise on DNR, USFS, and DFW properties. Target shooting is becoming problematic, and increasingly unsafe.
Non-Profit	Walking for recreation
Non-Profit	I don't know.
Non-Profit	Larger recreational vehicles mandate increased/improved roads, facilities including power, sewer and wifi connections.
Non-Profit	We've been seeing a dramatic increase in registration for organized mountain bike, road rides, and runs (both trail and road) in the Greater Wenatchee Area. This info comes from race registrations. These registrations will likely increase as word gets out about these events. These organized events draw a lot of first timers to the area who will likely return at a later date increasing use of these same recreation assets.
Non-Profit	We will continue to see hiking increase in popularity. With the population of Washington state expected to grow by 1.8 million in the next 20 years and there is growing anecdotal evidence that many of these people of coming to the state in part because of the outdoor opportunities. Since 1977, the number of recreation visitor days on national forest trails has increased 376 percent. And, the Forest Service has reported that recreation is by far the single greatest use of the National Forest System, this trend shows no signs of slowing.
Non-Profit	N/A
Non-Profit	Mountain biking, climbing, ORV use, camping, target shooting.
Non-Profit	Camping, day hiking, biking, backpacking, rock climbing, boating, and swimming. This is based on registration demand over the past 5 years, a plan to expand our camps, and general observation.
Private	N/A
State Agency	We don't have a survey or other data to tell us where the increase in demand will be. Generally, we're seeing increases in more non-traditional uses of our lands (as opposed to the more traditional hunting and fishing). We've also seen anecdotally increases in: paddleboarding nature activities Mtn biking Rock climbing geocaching We expect more demand generally, with increases in population.

Org Type	Response
State Agency	Caveat: there is a substantial short-fall in our ability to meet the current demands. That means even if demand reduced slightly we would still only see a large unmet need. Mountain bike, side-by-side (aka UTV), hiking in locations readily accessible to urban/suburban populations, pleasure driving on forest roads.
State Agency	We expect to see increased demand for both day use and overnight accommodations, in part due to population growth, but also due to increased marketing. We expect to see an increase in demand for cabins due to millennials and non-white first-time campers looking for an accessible way to experience the outdoors (2016 North American Camper Survey). We expect to continue to see significant increases in kayaking and paddle boarding (Outdoor Foundation Topline Report, and anecdotal).
Tribal Government	Walking, day hiking (registration data, general observation)
Tribal Government	Traditional tribal use

Survey Results: Organization Planning

Respondents were asked a series of questions about how their organization plans for current and future recreation and conservation needs. This included questions about underserved populations and what changes/issues are happening that drives their planning efforts. Those questions, and unedited responses are below.

Does your organization have a planning document that addresses the development and use of outdoor recreation resources and conserving land? For example, a park or recreation comprehensive plan, park/trail/conservation/open space system master plan, or park element of a local comprehensive plan.

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Percent No	Percent I don't know	Percent Yes
Federal Agency	1	0%	0%	100%
Land Trust	7	0%	0%	100%
Local Government	25	16%	0%	84%
Other Non-Profit	14	64%	14%	22%
Private	1	0%	0%	100%
State Agency	3	0%	0%	100%
Tribal Government	2	0%	50%	50%

Since your organization does not have a plan for recreation and/or conservation, how does your organization solicit public input to prioritize needs?

Org Type	Response
Local Government	The Port adopted a Strategic Plan in 2011, which continues to inform the prioritization of infrastructure projects. The Plan was the product of a year + long public involvement process to better understand the needs and desires of residents and stakeholders. One key byproduct of the Plan was a rating/ranking system to evaluate and prioritize potential Port projects in light of adopted Port policy. A central policy directive of this citizen-driven Plan is to "fix aging infrastructure first," before taking on additional new development. Thus, continuing to evaluate and rank all potential projects in conjunction with this recently developed rating system is the means by which the Port continues to give voice to the public input it has previously received - and to prioritize needs in light of its limited financial capacity.
Local Government	As projects come along, we ask for public input and prioritize accordingly.
Local Government	We listen to constituent comments at commission meetings, community meetings, and other forums.
Local Government	Participates in local coalition that supports/promote outdoor recreation.
Non-Profit	We continuously monitor social media and create additional social media sites to solicit input. We also hold in person annual meetings to not only gather input but also foster education and discussion.

Org Type	Response
Non-Profit	We are primarily a wildlife conservation organization. We do however participate in land purchases to help preserve wildlife. We receive input from our membership and like type of organizations.
Non-Profit	?
Non-Profit	Input at our events
Non-Profit	We don't.
Non-Profit	Our organization is currently in the process of forming. One of our first steps is to create this public plan for recreation in our area.
Non-Profit	Washington Trails Association has a constant dialogue with our more than 15,000 member households and the hiking community more broadly via our social communities (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), our bi-monthly magazine and our monthly newsletters. In addition, to these ongoing methods of communication WTA manages a bi-annual hiker survey to see what issues are most important to Washington's hiking community.
Non-Profit	We survey our members.
Non-Profit	Through membership surveys and meetings

Is there any assistance the state could provide your organization to develop a plan if you need one?

Org Type	Response
Local Government	No. The chief obstacle to planning, programming and providing additional properties/facilities/infrastructure for recreation and/or conservation is fiscal.
Local Government	Yes, a template and/or funding.
Local Government	Planning has its place, but there is a point where the resources invested in planning are such that little is left to implement any elements of them. We have shelves full of plans that would have been great if time had stopped when they were completed. But time doesn't stop. Conditions change (as the survey noted above shows) and by the time there is money to put parts of the plan in place, interests have changed, people have changed, there are new materials, new methods, new perspectives, and new regulations. It is time to accept that having 40% of something (imperfect as it may be) is better than having 100% of nothing.
Local Government	Possibly. We are currently funding an outdoor recreation study that will identify opportunities for building our rec network as well as describe how to organize/manage some of the facilities. A state role in helping us develop that plan would be great.
Non-Profit	No thank you. I don't believe state assistance in developing a plan for us would be the best use of the public's scarce resources for recreation to meet our members needs.
Non-Profit	Grants to fund projects.
Non-Profit	?
Non-Profit	n/a
Non-Profit	no
Non-Profit	Funding would help immensely.

Org Type	Response
Non-Profit	The state needs to focus on how to meet the growing demands placed on our trail system, investing in maintenance and building out a trail system and infrastructure that can ease crowding and disburse use. It is vital that this system considers both close-in trails and the backcountry experiences.
Non-Profit	Can't think of anything at the moment.
Non-Profit	None needed

Does your organization have a service goal for outdoor recreation and conservation, such as number of people it can accommodate, number of people it serves, number of trail miles, or a desired per-capita acreage of park, conserved land, and recreation sites (for example, 5 acres of park per 1,000 people)?

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Percent No	Percent I don't know	Percent Yes
Federal Agency	1	0%	0%	100%
Land Trust	7	86%	0%	14%
Local Government	25	36%	4%	60%
Other Non-Profit	14	79%	7%	14%
Private	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Agency	3	100%	0%	0%
Tribal Government	2	50%	0%	50%

What is your organization's planned goal and what is it based on?

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	See MBS Forest Plan for all goals and capacity guidelines as they are to numerous and complex to describe here.
Land Trust	Complete 5 new land conservation projects per year - based on our strategic framework
Local Government	We are revising our goals in the 2017 Parks and Open Space Plan (link provided in previous question). The goal combines walkability (5-minute walk to a park in an urban village, 10-minutes everywhere else) with a level of service goal: 8 acres per 1,000 residents.
Local Government	Park within 1/2 mile for neighborhood parks. Specific targets per park type and facility.
Local Government	There are several goals identified on pages 54-61 in the Parks Plan (link in previous question)
Local Government	7.38 acres per person, maintain current ratio into the future.
Local Government	Below are goals based upon the City's Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan. This plan was guided with input and direction of city residents and the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers policies and recommendations to achieve the community's

Org Type	Response
	<p>goals. Plan Goals: Community Engagement and Communication: Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and inform residents through department communications. Recreation Programming: Establish a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities. Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trail System: Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and trails that is attractive, functional, accessible, and safe – providing access to all residents. Natural Areas and Greenspaces: Protect and manage the City's environmentally-sensitive lands, open spaces and natural and cultural resources to highlight their uniqueness, local history and environmental value. Trails and Pathways: Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors that connects to regional trails and provides access to significant local landscapes, public facilities, neighborhoods, and businesses. Park Planning: Plan for a parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space system that is efficient to administer and operate, while protecting capital investment. Level of Service Standards (Goals): Community Parks: 5 acres/1,000 people Neighborhood Pars: 3 acres/1,000 people Natural Areas and Greenspaces: 6 acres/1,000 people Trails: 0.75 miles/1,000 people</p>
Local Government	<p>The following numbers are based on LOS standards from other similar cities, as well as past practices by Poulsbo: Neighborhood Park / 2 acres per 1,000 population Community Park / 3.5 acres per 1,000 population Regional Park / 1.5 acres per 1,000 population Open Space Park / 6 acres per 1,000 population Trails / 1 mile or .73 acre per 1,000 population Totals: 13.73 acres per 1,000 population</p>
Local Government	<p>Goals & Policies This Plan includes goals and objectives intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks and recreation system meets the needs of the Fife community for years to come. These goals and objectives were based on community input and technical analysis. They include: Community Involvement & Information: Encourage and support public involvement in park and recreation issues. Parks & Greenways: Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation facilities and natural areas that provides equitable access to all residents. Trails: Develop a network of shared-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors to enable connectivity between parks, neighborhoods and public amenities. Recreation Programs & Services: Provide and promote a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities. Economic Development: Ensure that planning for parks, recreation and opens space supports, is consistent with and implements broader elements of the City's community and economic development vision. Maintenance & Operations: Provide a parks and recreation system that is efficient to maintain and operate, provides a high level of user comfort, safety, and aesthetic quality and protects capital investments. Design: Provide high-quality care for play structures and surfaces and maintenance of trails, parks and recreation facilities throughout the City. Administration & Management: Provide leadership that supports and promotes the PRCS Board and the Department to the community, stakeholders, partners and City Council Level of Service Standards. This Plan proposes adjustments to the City's service standards for parks and recreation facilities to achieve community goals within projected resources. These standards include: Community & Neighborhood Parks: This Plan maintains the acreage standard for</p>

Org Type	Response
	per 1000 people with an overall goal of 32 acres of parks, trails and open space per 1000 people. Provide equitable parks and facilities throughout the community. These goals are based on community input and City Council adopted Legacies and Strategic Commitments.
Local Government	www.seattle.gov/parks
Local Government	The goals and objectives are based on community demand and local standards developed through community input.
Local Government	Our agency uses LOS, Level of Service. We organize park land in different categories, however the overall goal for parklands per 1000 people is 63.92 acre. Our comprehensive plan increases this somewhat in the total land category by a 12.57 acre increase per 1000.
Local Government	The 2014 Comprehensive Plan identified a level of service at 6 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. This is based on RCO Manual 2.
Non-Profit	BCHW wants to work toward a goal to erase the 75% backlog of trails that have been closed and cannot be maintained by the agencies that are tasked to do so. Budget cuts to public lands limit the amount and type of work that can be done and trails are disappearing from the landscape due to such maintenance issues.
Non-Profit	We aim to double the number of youth we serve in the outdoors in 5 years. This is based on expanding our current camps and outdoor programs as well as developing a new camp and partnering with land managers to program on public lands.
Tribal Government	Conservative survey

Has your organization identified an underserved population (not a specific type of recreation user) within your service area? For example, children and youth, teenagers, seniors, families, people with disabilities, people with low income, LGBTQ users, race or ethnic groups or other specific groups of people.

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Percent No	Percent I don't know	Percent Yes
Federal Agency	1	0%	0%	100%
Land Trust	7	29%	14%	57%
Local Government	25	64%	12%	24%
Other Non-Profit	14	29%	7%	64%
Private	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Agency	3	67%	0%	33%
Tribal Government	2	50%	50%	0%

What are those underserved populations, how did you identify them (via a survey, census data, or other source) and how are you working to address their outdoor recreation needs?

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	Most of the above based on NVUM and other surveys by West Virginia University.

Org Type	Response
Land Trust	Opportunities for people with limited mobility, families with children (especially fresh water swimming and sailing).
Land Trust	The Latino community and population.
Land Trust	We have developed a Youth Program that gets kids out into nature and that incorporates our nature areas in their regular school activities (called the conservation classroom). Conservation Classrooms are ideally within walking distance of a school or youth clubs but at no more than 30 minutes away. Skagit County has a diverse school-aged population. 50% of Mt Vernon High school identifies as Latino. Our programs reflect this diversity. They need nature areas near their homes and schools and trails to these nature areas. We are working on this
Land Trust	Youth education groups - many students have never been on a hike much less on a nature walk with an educator. We are trying to increase both formal and informal opportunities for students and families to go on a nature walk.
Local Government	Low income neighborhoods are identified using census data. They tend to be newly annexed or newer neighborhoods with lower cost housing and fewer developed parks or other amenities, vs older established neighborhoods with higher cost housing and more parks. Our equitable access to park facilities goal will help address this need by prioritizing projects in underserved areas.
Local Government	Our acquisition strategy prioritizes funding to underserved areas with park gaps. We have mapped areas with underserved populations based on: equity and health, income and poverty, density and opportunity.
Local Government	People with disabilities - trying to address ADA issues to be more accessible / complaints from current users about wanting more programs; we also lack staff capacity At-risk youth, particularly focus on African American males / working with multiple city departments on programs, services for population identified LGBTQ - implementing more programs / working with LGBTQ Commission, offering things like gender only swims
Local Government	Survey, registrations.
Local Government	We have a large Latino population, marketing our programs to this under served population has been a focus in 2016 and 2017. All print material distributed through the school district is in English and Spanish and radio ads on the Spanish station.
Local Government	We identified by neighborhood. Specifically looking at increased rates of land conversion, population growth, survey and task force recommendations.
Non-Profit	Both teens and minority groups
Non-Profit	Hispanic population. Hispanics by nature from Mexico do not trust state or local authorities because of experienced or perceived trust issues. A specialized outreach program needs to be developed so Hispanics understand that here in the U.S. state agencies can be trusted and are here to help guide them in ethical and legal outdoor recreation. Because they do not trust, they do not seek out advice. As a result they unintentionally create issues, violate laws and damage resources simply because they do not understand the issues.
Non-Profit	More info to come
Non-Profit	We send youth to summer camps and fishing and shooting activities, work with disabled veterans on fishing and hunting trips, assist senior citizens in like activities. Have worked with Make A Wish.

Org Type	Response
Non-Profit	We serve children and youth, teenagers, seniors, families, people with disabilities, people with low income, LGBTQ users, and provide opportunities for several specific racial, cultural, and religious groups such as African American Males weekend, family camps for Muslim families, Latino events. We work with each group to address their needs in different ways depending on what the needs are.
Non-Profit	We work with public schools which report underserved populations. We develop materials that address the learning needs of ALL students and specifically look for schools to support that have high underserved populations. We provide awareness of recreation as one of several ways to use public lands and help students understand the different management objectives of different types of land and how they can actively engage in decisions related to those lands.
Non-Profit	We're continually seeking to involve youth in our sport and also seek to support underserved populations such as disabled veterans. We don't do this though through an explicit planning process but rather through our routine interactions and monthly meetings.
Non-Profit	Women over 30, 40, 50, and 60
Non-Profit	Youth and Latinos. This information comes from the Our Valley What's Next? survey. We don't yet have a plan to address this.
State Agency	<p>The service area for Washington State Parks is the whole state, and the mission of the agency is to connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives. So since our goal is to serve all Washingtonians, all underserved populations in the state are in our service area. Groups will vary from park to park, but the agency is particularly interested in better serving people with disabilities, people of color, people with low income, youth, and seniors.</p> <p>State Parks included a commitment to diversity in its Strategic Plan: The agency is committed to creating an equitable, hospitable, appreciative, safe and inclusive park environment—one that embraces the full spectrum of community members' contributions. The Commission makes this commitment because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating diversity is a way to appreciate and value individual differences • A diverse workforce will more effectively serve an increasingly heterogeneous society • Diversity in our staffing and programs helps ensure the relevance of a state park system, its mission, properties, and programs. <p>The Commission encourages and supports staff efforts to reach out to people of all races, national origins, abilities, religions, sexual orientations, veteran status, ages and genders who use the parks and who live in communities near parks.</p> <p>Additionally, the Statewide Park Acquisition and Development Strategy prioritizes state parks that act as urban gateways in order to provide better access to the underserved populations that live in urban areas.</p> <p>State Parks is also currently working on its ten-year capital development plan, and one of its guiding principles is to respond to the state's demographic changes by gauging what visitors want. The principle says the agency should make a deliberate</p>

Org Type	Response
	effort in park design to ease access and promote use for a full spectrum of the state's residents. This may include, for example, providing public transit access facilities in parks, providing facilities for varied recreational pursuits popular with different ethnic groups, and locating parks and facilities near urban population centers. Potential capital projects will be evaluated on a number of factors, including how well they advance the Statewide Acquisition and Development Strategy and the guiding principles. The ten-year capital development plan also includes specific goals for improving access to parks for people with disabilities.

What changes are happening in your service area that drives your planning and implementation of parks, recreation and land conservation opportunities?

Org Type	Response
Federal Agency	Most of our current issues and planning initiatives are driven by outside interests/groups or legislation. The issue we are trying hard to catch up on is the public's use and reliance on technology and developing a cross agency data network database.
Land Trust	Chelan County and Douglas County are in the process of updating their parks and recreation plans at this time.
Land Trust	Development of available natural areas.
Land Trust	Increase in # of visitors to the area.
Land Trust	Increased population and resulting pressures on our existing parks and green spaces and a rapidly increasing demand for recreation and conservation sites by our community members and visitors to our community.
Land Trust	Increasingly urbanized population that lives in low elevation areas and wants nature areas and trails Increasingly diverse population that lives in low elevation areas that may not have funds/time to travel a long distance to wilderness parks Changing climate that necessitates advanced planning to help fish and wildlife adapt over time. If climate change is not being taken seriously at the federal level, we must tackle it head on here or else we will passing on a very sorry world Increasingly marginalized farmlands in floodplain that will have a hard time returning to farmland- but good for fish and wildlife and open space. Need to help rural community make voluntary changes if change over time is inevitable. Increased flood vulnerability in floodplain. Old zoning in place that still allows people to buy their "dream parcel"..and then they realize they are in floodplain. Necessitates people be moved out of area through voluntary buy-outs and using land for other public benefits (fish and wildlife habitat) Places people love - many of these are in low elevation areas and enable year-round recreational use. They are high risk of being converted to development. They move to the top of our list Keeping common species common. The funding tends to go to endangered species (understandable) but funding is hard to come by to save the places like low elevation forests that birds fish and wildlife desperately need to stay relatively "common"
Land Trust	More interest in conservation of urban land for recreation than for rural land for wildlife.

Org Type	Response
Land Trust	We are seeing increased use of natural areas and increased demand for specific activities.
Local Government	Adoption of a critical areas ordinance in 2006 means there is less pressure to use park acquisition money to preserve wetlands and creek corridors. The high cost of development, combined with a dwindling lack of developable land is leading to higher land costs and competition to purchase property, especially at appraised value. Unfortunately the areas where we need parks the most are in newly annexed areas which tend to have lower income residents. Changes in stormwater regulations will increase costs of implementation.
Local Government	Aging facilities Limited inventory Residential growth
Local Government	City Council
Local Government	Funding
Local Government	Growth of population, increased density of an already dense community, outdoor recreation tourism and changing needs and desires of residents.
Local Government	Increased population; increased building in the city; citizen input; grant availability
Local Government	Light rail stations opening in Shoreline in 2023 expect substantial population growth and conversion of single family neighborhoods into high density communities. We have identified a need to buy up 95 acres of new parkland to maintain our current level of service.
Local Government	Population growth and citizen expectations are the two biggest changes.
Local Government	Rapid population growth
Local Government	The availability of affordable land and funding to develop recreation facilities and parks. Support from the city council and community to approve funding mechanisms to acquire land and construct facilities. We also have historically had very low voter turnout. A large segment of our population lives in multifamily housing and they have not been very engaged in city government.
Local Government	The city is redeveloping and seeing infill projects that will strain current system.
Local Government	The greatest change in Seattle is the rapid rate of growth, leading to increased density and more pressure on existing parks and facilities. Tied with growth is increasing income disparity and the need for Seattle Parks and Recreation to serve those with less in our City.
Local Government	The most significant is population growth of the city and region.
Local Government	Changes are related to population growth and density increases for Winslow. Relationships with conservation partners are changing. In some instances expanding off of existing relationships and incorporating new partnerships. This effort has worked to expand acreage in Winslow, which is facing land conversion and denser development relative to the past.

Org Type	Response
Local Government	The population in our service area has increased and will continue to increase.
Local Government	Changing funding opportunities
Local Government	Increased population
Local Government	Increased population will require additional facilities to accommodate the growth.
Local Government	Population growth and increase in rec-oriented tourism.
Local Government	Port Townsend and Jefferson County have seen a dramatic reinforcement/strengthening of demographic trends over the past 10-20 years. In a nutshell, the city and county have the highest median age of any jurisdiction(s) in the State of Washington (10th oldest in the nation). The trend towards a retirement residential area has deepened. With the 65+ population growing inexorably, and under age 18 population diminishing as a percentage of the overall population. As the baby boomers age, it suggests that the mix of recreational facilities demanded by the public is likely to change, with lower demand for certain types of active recreational facilities (e.g., ball fields) and higher demand for passive recreational opportunities.
Local Government	Seasonal use of aging infrastructure - we are trying to maintain our facilities and assist other local governments in trail projects and non-motorized transportation projects for residents and visitors to enjoy.
Local Government	Short fishing season that result in concentrated use of Port facilities.
Local Government	The Town of Cathlamet has recently moved their sewer to a different location, the existing lagoons are now available for future growth. We have been park planning, received a grant from NPS so the initial study and public awareness. Part of the property is owned by the port district. We will be using our dredge spoils to fill the lagoons. There is some conflict able what each owner wants to accomplish. I think that there can be some compromise.
Local Government	We are listing to our constituents through our Strategic Planning process and one of the main topics we discussed was access to the Columbia River waterfront. Through our waterfront trail and park project we are meeting that request and giving back to the community.
Local Government	Younger people are not wanting to own boats as individual owners full time.
Non-Profit	?
Non-Profit	As a nonprofit organization dedicated inspiring hikers and protecting trails and public lands, Washington Trails Association continues to see the numbers of people getting out on trails grow. At the same time investment in public lands and recreation infrastructure are not keeping up with this demand. WTA continues to look for new opportunities to create public-private partnerships, like our volunteer trail maintenance program, to reduce the infrastructure backlog on federal lands, but volunteers cannot do it alone. In order to increase our volunteer trail work, there

Org Type	Response
	must be additional investment in land management agencies to address the maintenance backlog for trails, campgrounds and access roads on federal lands.
Non-Profit	Growth in user population commensurate with the improving economy; broadening of user types into the 4x4, ATV, UTV and dirt bike areas; continued interest in creating sustainable facilities that require less maintenance and also are less expensive to create
Non-Profit	Increased use
Non-Profit	Increasing demands of users for wifi and other services difficult to provide in our areas.
Non-Profit	More
Non-Profit	N/A
Non-Profit	None
Non-Profit	Our users are getting older and have less desire to do our events
Non-Profit	Poor weather in the Puget Sound is driving visitation to our region. Grassroots organization for our entire community has been going on the last 2 years.
Non-Profit	The increase in numbers of people in our area.
Non-Profit	Time and population growth.
Non-Profit	We strive to protect our resources as well as maintain access to our public lands.
Non-Profit	We work Statewide, we work with K-12 educators to equip them with the skills they need to engage community partners and students in locally relevant, real world science. Each community we work with has different needs and there are lots of entry points to our work so we select the entry point that makes sense for any school or district and build from there.
State Agency	Increasing usage, overcrowding, conflict between some incompatible uses (eg. Target shooting), challenges between recreation and working forest, support for rural economies, conservation demands and compatibility with rec.
State Agency	Many of the same things we've identified in this survey
State Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth and changes in demographics, leading to park users recreating differently than they have in the past and state parks being less relevant to some groups • Challenges serving all people in the service area equitably • Challenges engaging youth • Demand for more water access and trails • Growing need for education and interpretation for park users that came to Washington from elsewhere • Quickly diminishing opportunities to purchase suitable park lands due to escalating land prices • Diminishing political support for adding lands and facilities to meet future demand • Growing awareness by Washingtonians of the value of natural resources and the need for conservation • Climate change
Tribal Government	Development pressure increases our need to conserve land, recreation is secondary and a linked component of successful conservation. our demographic is aging.
Tribal Government	Population growth

Survey Results: Funding and Funding Issues

Respondents were asked about the funding their organization receives, as well as the funding and/or budget issues they face when managing their recreation and conservation facilities. Those questions and summarized responses are below.

In a typical year, what percent of funding does your organization receive from each of the following types of revenue below? Choose a percentage between 0 and 100 for each type. Your best estimate is fine.

Funding Type	Overall	Federal Agency	Land Trust	Local Gov.	Other Non-Profit	Private	State Agency	Tribal Gov.
Bond issues	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	N/A	13%	0%
General property taxes	14%	0%	1%	29%	1%	N/A	3%	0%
Gifts or donations	15%	5%	46%	1%	21%	N/A	2%	40%
Leases or rentals	13%	5%	1%	24%	5%	N/A	0%	0%
Levies	3%	0%	0%	6%	2%	N/A	1%	0%
Other	17%	40%	19%	7%	29%	N/A	14%	38%
Public or private grants (not from the WA State Recreation and Conservation Office)	7%	2%	21%	4%	8%	N/A	5%	5%
Recreation and Conservation Office grants	7%	7%	11%	4%	6%	N/A	20%	18%
Special use or event permits	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	N/A	0%	0%
User or program fees	21%	40%	0%	22%	27%	N/A	42%	0%

How important are each of the following funding issues to you? Rank each issue on a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority).

Issue	Overall Rank⁵
Existing facilities, operational and maintenance costs	4.02
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities or trails	3.83
Increasing capacity	3.62
Operating and maintaining existing recreation and education programs	3.51
Acquiring land for parks, trails and beaches	3.49
Habitat preservation or restoration	3.30
Planning for development	3.15
Acquiring land for open space, natural areas and wildlife habitat	3.04
Training for staff, volunteers and friends groups	2.91
Environmental or cultural studies, clearances and permits	2.43
Improving technology to provide outdoor recreation services	2.32
Acquiring land for cultural or historic sites	1.85
Monitoring and maintenance of prehistoric or historic sites	1.83

⁵ This is an average based on all responses.

Survey Results: Use of GIS

In this section, respondents were asked about their use of GIS, and whether that information was available online. If the respondent indicated they have a GIS inventory, they were asked to either provide a link, or contact information for someone at their organization. The Recreation and Conservation Office will follow up with those respondents who provided contact information.

The Recreation and Conservation Office is compiling a statewide inventory of outdoor recreation and conservation land, facilities, and trails for the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Does your organization have a Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory of the outdoor recreation and conservation land, facilities, and trails that you own or manage?

Organization Type	Number of Responses	Percent No	Percent I don't know	Percent Yes
Federal Agency	1	0%	0%	100%
Land Trust	7	0%	0%	100%
Local Government	22	41%	9%	50%
Other Non-Profit	12	75%	17%	8%
Private	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Agency	3	0%	0%	100%
Tribal Government	2	50%	0%	50%

Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Provider Survey 2017

First Page

Dear Washington Outdoor Recreation Provider:

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requests your participation in a survey to gather information about outdoor recreation and conservation needs. This survey will measure your opinions on the most important outdoor recreation and conservation issues and priorities facing your organization.

The information collected will inform Washington's next State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). SCORP is developed to help decision-makers better understand recreation issues statewide. Your participation in the survey is crucial to determining the most strategic use of state and federal funds to meet Washington's outdoor recreation and conservation needs. The final SCORP will contain information that can help recreation service providers make strategic investments, including data about the public's interest and participation in specific recreational activities.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 902-3080 or leslie.connelly@rco.wa.gov.

Leslie Connelly

RCO Policy Specialist

Contact Information

Your name:

Your title:

Organization name:

Phone:

Email:

Major Issues and Challenges

1. In general, what are the most important issues for outdoor recreation and conservation within your service area in the near future (3-5 years)? *Rank each issue on a scale of 1 (low importance) to 5 (high importance).*

Climate change impacts or sustainability issues

Inadequate planning to meet demand or identified needs

Increasing costs for buying land or developing facilities

Keeping up with population growth or increased use

Lack of awareness of access fees

Lack of awareness of available facilities and their location

Lack of or inadequate facilities to meet demand

Maintaining existing facilities

Meeting demand for specific types of recreation or providing a diversity of recreation opportunities

Meeting funding goals

Natural resource or cultural resources issues or conflicts with recreation

Poor quality of existing facilities

Problems related to user access (e.g., closed facilities, travel distance to facilities, not enough parking, etc.)

Providing accessible facilities for the elderly and people with disabilities

Safety concerns from the public

User conflicts at existing facilities

Other – *[text box for answer]*

2. Why? Provide a description of your top ranked issues and why those are the most important. *[open-ended response]*
3. What are the biggest challenges for your organization to addressing the issues you identified? *Rank each issue on a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority).*

Ability to create and coordinate partnerships

Ability to raise local funds for facilities or land acquisition

Competing demands for limited funds

Compliance with regulations and permitting

Inadequate staff capacity

Lack of a common goal or vision

Lack of community support

Lack of political support

Lack of space or property within jurisdiction to expand or create new facilities

Lack of support of user groups

Lack of technology or data

Lack of user education and awareness

Not in my backyard or neighborhood conflicts

Time

Other – [text box for answer]

4. How can the state help overcome these challenges? [open-ended response]

2017 Resident General Population Outdoor Recreation Survey

Eastern Washington University, in partnership with RCO, conducted a general survey of the state population to identify the types of outdoor recreation activities that residents do. Below is a list of the top ten outdoor recreation activities for adults who have children and adults who do not have children in Washington State. It identifies the percent of the population who did that activity at least once during the past year (called a participation rate). It also identifies whether the participation rate is higher or lower than the last resident survey in 2012. The next two questions ask you to reflect on this list.

Adults without Children				Adults with Children		
Rank	Activity	Participation Rate	Change from 2012	Activity	Participation Rate	Change from 2012
1	Walking	82%	↑	Walking	88%	↑
2	Sightseeing	54%	No change	Leisure in parks	73%	Not asked in 2012
3	Nature activities	53%	↓	Swimming	62%	↑
4	Day hiking	51%	No change	Nature activities	57%	No change
5	Boating or paddling in freshwater	45%	↑	Boating or paddling in freshwater	56%	↑
6	Swimming	45%	↑	Day hiking	56%	No change
7	Leisure in parks	32%	Not asked in 2012	Bicycling	34%	No change
8	Bicycling	27%	↓	Running	34%	No change
9	Fishing in freshwater	24%	No change	Camping	29%	↓
10	Target shooting	19%	No change	Fishing in freshwater	28%	No change

5. In general, do the participation rates in the top outdoor recreation activities reflect what you experience as a service provider of outdoor recreation? For example, walking is the activity that most adults do or swimming is more important for adults with children. [YES/NO/DON'T KNOW]

- a. If no,
 - i. How are the participation rates different than what you experience? *[open-ended response]*
 - ii. If your experience is different, what are the recreation activities that receive the most participation? Please provide a source for your information (e.g., registration data, resident survey, plan, etc.) *[open-ended response]*
- 6. Does the information on the change in participation rates reflect what you have experienced in the last 5 years as a service provider of outdoor recreation? For example, more adults are walking or there are more adults interested in target shooting. *[YES/NO/DON'T KNOW]*
 - a. If no,
 - i. If your experience is different, how has participation in outdoor recreation activities changed in the past 5 years from your experience? *[open-ended response]*
 - ii. What are the outdoor recreation activities that you expect to increase in demand in the near future (3-5 years)? Please provide a source for your information (e.g., registration data, resident survey, plan, etc.) *[open-ended response]*

Organization Planning

- 7. Does your organization have a planning document that addresses the development and use of outdoor recreation resources and conserving land? For example, a park or recreation comprehensive plan, park/trail/conservation/open space system master plan, or park element of a local comprehensive plan. *[YES/NO/DON'T KNOW]*
 - a. If yes, please provide a link to the latest plan(s) if it is available on the Web. *[open-ended response]*
 - b. If no,
 - i. Why doesn't your organization have a plan? *[open-ended response]*
 - ii. Is there any assistance the state could provide your organization to develop a plan if you need one? *[open-ended response]*
- 8. Does your organization have a service goal for outdoor recreation and conservation, such as number of people it can accommodate, number of people it serves, number of trail miles, or a desired per-capita acreage of park, conserved land, and recreation sites (for example, 5 acres of park per 1,000 people)? *[YES/NO/DON'T KNOW]*
 - a. If yes, what is your organization's planned goal and what is it based on? *[open-ended response]*
- 9. Has your organization identified an underserved population (not a specific type of recreation user) within your service area? For example, children and youth, teenagers, seniors, families, people with disabilities, people with low income, LGBTQ users, race or ethnic groups or other specific groups of people. *[YES/NO/DON'T KNOW]*

- a. If yes, what are those underserved populations, how did you identify them (via a survey, census data, or other source) and how are you working to address their outdoor recreation needs?
[open-ended response]
10. What changes are happening in your service area that drives your planning and implementation of parks, recreation and land conservation opportunities? *[open-ended response]*

Funding

11. In a typical year, what percent of funding does your organization receive from each of the following types of revenue below? Choose a percentage between 0 and 100 for each type.

Bond issues

General property taxes

Gifts or donations

Leases or rentals

Levies

User or program fees

Public or private grants (not from the WA State Recreation and Conservation Office)

Special use or event permits

Recreation and Conservation Office grants

Other – *[text box for answer]*

12. How important are each of the following funding issues to you? *Rank each issue on a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority).*

Acquiring lands for more parks, trails, open space, natural areas, and recreation areas

Acquiring lands for wildlife corridors

Developing new outdoor recreation facilities or trails

Environmental or cultural studies, clearances and permits

Existing facilities, operational and maintenance costs

Habitat preservation or restoration

Improving technology to provide outdoor recreation services

Increasing capacity

Monitoring and maintenance of prehistoric or historic sites

Operating and maintaining existing recreation and education programs

Planning for development

Training for staff, volunteers and friends groups

Other – *[text box for answer]*

Use of GIS

13. The Recreation and Conservation Office is compiling a statewide inventory of outdoor recreation and conservation land, facilities, and trails for the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Does your organization have a Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory of its outdoor recreation and conservation land, facilities, and trails? *[YES/NO/DON'T KNOW]*

- a. If yes, please provide a link on the Web if the inventory is publicly available GIS data or the contact person we can contact. *[text box for answer]*